

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 7-10.

The present application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance.

Claim Status

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4.

Claim 6 has been amended to further describe the cladding relative to the substrate in a manner consistent with specification.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 remain pending.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §103

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over KORNBLUH et al. US 20060192465 (KORNBLUH). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Independent claim 1 now includes the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 4.

Therefore, claim 1, and dependent claims 3 and 5, are not rendered obvious by KORNBLUH, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over KORNBLUH in view of PEI et al. US 20060113880 (PEI). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

The position of the Official Action was that the cladding of the polymer actuator would be firmly connected in KORNBLUH, as evidenced by Figure 2h and Figure 2j.

However, in paragraphs 30 and 31 of KORNBLUH, the Figures 2G and 2H and the Figures 2I and 2J, illustrate one embodiment respectively. If one compares the structure of elements 112 and 131 in Figure 2G and Figure 2I, it is apparent that these items are not firmly connected to the substrate by means of the entire bearing area. Rather, these items connect at one point:

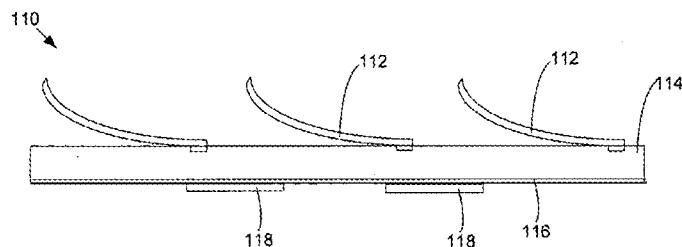


FIG. 2G

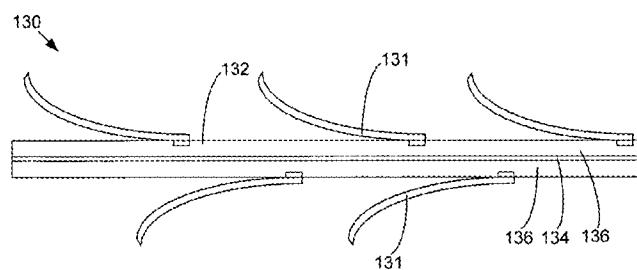


FIG. 2I

Indeed, KORNBLUH discloses that it is the activation of these elements that bring them into contact with the substrate, e.g., as illustrated in 2H and 2J and explained in [0105] relative to 2H:

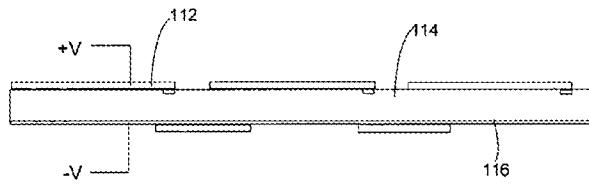


FIG. 2H

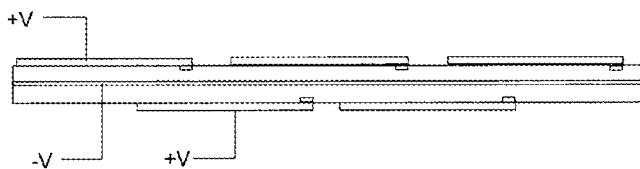
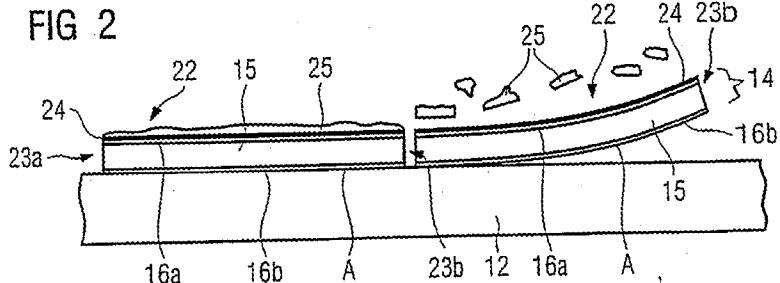


FIG. 2J

Thus, these elements are not firmly connected to the substrate, and the actuator is deformed by the cladding arching away from the substrate.

As explained beginning at line 6 of page 5 of the specification, the claimed connection of the cladding over the entire bearing area advantageously provides a particularly stable cladding for the substrate. The polymer actuator is not deformed by the cladding being lifted and arching away from the substrate, but rather by applying an electric field to the polymer actuator only locally.

This is illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application (e.g., as described at line 8 of page 8 of the specification):



Therefore, the KORNBLUH fails to suggest the claimed invention, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment to the claims and the foregoing remarks, this application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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